

Prematurity**Definition/
cut-off value**

 Infant born at <37 weeks gestation

**Participant
category and
priority level****Category****Priority**

 Infants

I

Justification

Premature infants may have physical problems that have nutritional implications including immature sucking and swallowing; immature digestion and absorption of carbohydrates and lipids and small gastric capacity. Premature infants have increased nutrient and caloric needs for rapid growth. Premature infants grow well on breast milk. WIC promotes breastfeeding and provides nutrition education about infant feeding.

References

Institute of Medicine: WIC Nutrition Risk Criteria: A Scientific Assessment; 1996; pp. 215-216.

10/02